

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /123 W
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R 311602Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8927
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14511

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, EG
SUBJ: LAW OF THE SEA

REF STATE 203640,

1. AS PART OF CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH DIR MFA LEGAL DEPT AMB NABIL ARABY ON UN AND LOS MATTERS, POLCOUNS REVIEWED POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL WITH HIM ON AUG 31.
2. SEABED MINING REGIME. ARABY FOUND NOTHING NEW IN RESTATEMENT OF US POSITION AND ASKED WHERE DOES US PLAN TO GO FROM HERE? G-77 DOES NOT AGREE WITH US POSITION AND THERE WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE SOME GIVE IN US POSITION IF AGREEMENT TO BE CONCLUDED.
3. REVIEW OF SEABED REGIME. ARABY THOUGH US POSITION WAS NOT RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF GOE ON THIS ISSUE, I.E., THAT THE OUTCOME OF A REVIEW CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE PREDETERMINED. WITH REGARD TO DIVISION OF FUTURE MARKETS
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BETWEEN LAND-BASED AND SEABED-BASED PRODUCTION, ARABY SAID GOE COULD AGREE WITH US POSITION, BUT THAT AS IN OTHER CASES IN WHICH GOE'S OWN INTERESTS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED, IT WOULD FOLLOW G-77 LEAD.

4. PROCESS LEADING TO ICNT. ARABY EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL ABHORENCE TO PROCESS USED TO DRAFT ICNT SEABED PROVISIONS.

HE THOUGHT THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD SURELY BE DISCUSSED IN
NEXT MEETING OF G-77 AND HE HOPES THAT G-77 WILL PROPOSE
CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ONE BE REPLACED.

5. ARABLY SAID MARCH 1978 LOS MEETING IN GENEVA WILL BE PREA-
CEDED BY G-77 MEETING IN FEB IN DAKAR. FOR FIRST TIME,
ARABY EXPRESSED HIS OWN SENSE OF CONCERN AND PESSIMISM ABOUT
SUCCESS OF ACHIEVING TREATY. HE PARTICULARLY REGRETTED THAT
DECISION HAD BEEN MADE SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO GO FOR COMPREHENSIVE
TREATY RATHER THAN SEPARATING OUT THOSE ELEMENTS ON WHICH THERE
WAS WIDE AGREEMENT AND PUTTING THEM INTO FORCE. HE
THOUGHTS IT MIGHT STILL NOT BE TOO LATE TO USE THIS
APPROACH SINCE COMMITTEES TWO AND THREE HAVE ALMOST COMPLETED
THEIR WORK AND COMMITTEE FOUR NOT PLAGUED BY IRRECONCILABLE
DIFFERENCES. THUS, CONF COULD APPROVE THESE CONVENTIONS
WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT NEW CONF WOULD BE CONVENED IN FOUR OR
FIVE YEARS TO TRY AGAIN TO RESOLVE CONFLICT OVER EXPLOITA-
TION DEEP SEABED. AT LEAST CONF WOULD NOT BE TOTAL FAILURE
AND PROSPECTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE TREATY MIGHT IMPROVE
WITH TIME.
EILTS

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